

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Time: 36-T01

Agency Name: Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS)

Program Name: Youth Forestry Camp #3 (YFC3)

Service Name: Remedial Academics

Cohort Total: 30

Timeframe of Selected Cohort: January 2013 to May 2014

Referral County(s): Lehigh and multiple counties

Date(s) of Interview(s): March 7, 2014, June 9, 2014, & July 15, 2014

Lead County: Lehigh

Probation Representative(s): Tracie Davies

EPIS Representative: Lisa Freese & Heather Perry

Description of Service:

The Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS) is responsible for the management, operations, program planning and oversight of Pennsylvania's youth development center/youth forestry camp facilities. These facilities are designed to provide state-of-the-art treatment, care and custody services to Pennsylvania's most at-risk youth. The facilities serve both male and female adolescents who have been adjudicated delinquent by their county judicial system. Treatment services are individualized based on strengths and needs. The Balanced and Restorative Justice principles are consistently rooted throughout each facility.

Youth Forestry Camp #3 (YFC#3) is a 50 bed open residential facility for adjudicated males between the ages of 14 and 20 located in Huntingdon County. It is one of six facilities under BJJS's jurisdiction. There are two treatment options available to the youth at YFC#3. B Dorm, which is their residential program, combines both individual and group counseling and consists of a 3 track system. Track 1 residents participate in an intensive 3-4 month group counseling cycle that addresses various identified competencies. Track 2 consists of a 2 month rotation of vocational and technical training while maintaining a focus on the delinquency factors that necessitated placement. Track 3 places an additional emphasis on vocational training, job readiness, and independent living. The 2nd treatment option is First Step or A Dorm, which is a 1 track, 84 day, 12 week program for residents who have been identified as having a significant substance abuse problem.

The focus of this report is the academic services/educational programs that are provided at YFC#3. According to the YFC#3 manual, educational and vocational services are run directly through the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11. Education delivery is accomplished through competency-based individualized instruction, with multiple delivery modes and educational strategies. The educational and vocational programming is designed to meet the standards of the Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT).

The four characteristics of a service found to be the most strongly related to reducing recidivism:

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Remedial Academic Program

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? Yes

If so, what is the Service Type? Job Related Training

Was the supplemental service provided? Yes Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 15

Total Points Received: 15 Total Points Possible: 35

2. **Quality of Service:** Research has shown that programs that deliver service with high quality are more likely to have a positive impact on recidivism reduction. Monitoring of quality is defined by existence of written protocol, staff training, staff supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Received: 20 Total Points Possible: 20

3. Amount of Service: Score was derived by calculating the total number of weeks and hours received by each youth in the service. The amount of service is measured by the target amounts of service for the SPEP™ service categorization. Each SPEP™ service type has varying amounts of duration and contact hours. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction.

Points received for Duration or Number of Weeks: 0

Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours: 8

Total Points Received: 8 **Total Points Possible:** 20

4. Youth Risk Level: The risk level score is compiled by calculating the total % of youth that score above low risk, and the total % of youth who score above moderate risk to reoffend based on the results of the YLS.

 30 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points

 13 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 13 points

Total Points Received: 25 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 68 total points received out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP™ therapeutic service. (e.g. individual counseling compared to cognitive behavioral therapy, social skills training, mentoring, etc.)

Note: Services with scores greater than or equal to 50 show the service is having a positive impact on recidivism reduction.

Program Optimization Percentage: 85% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (e.g. individual counseling compared to all other individual counseling services included in the research.)

The SPEP™ and Performance Improvement

The intended use of the SPEP™ is to optimize the effectiveness of reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders. Recommendations for performance improvement are included in the service Feedback Report, and these recommendations are the focus of the Performance Improvement Plan, a shared responsibility of the service provider and the juvenile probation department.

1. Collaborating with the probation department and investigating ways to meet targets:
 - a. Striving to ensure all students reach a minimum of 26 weeks of service.
 - b. Striving to ensure all students reach a minimum of 100 contact hours.
2. Strengthening the Youth Forestry Camp #3 Policies and Procedures Manual:
 - a. Being more specific (on page 13 of the Service Descriptions) when describing the Remedial Educational services to be provided as well as the specific audience (ie. age range, level of risk).
 - b. Documenting the date the manual is reviewed and updated.
3. Improving upon the existing data collection process:
 - a. Track the data (number of weeks the youth participated in the service; number of hours the youth received the service; and the YLS scores).
 - b. Explore ways to obtain additional outcome data (peer reviews or additional ways to obtain feedback from youth and families where appropriate).

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment

Name of Program and Service: Youth Forestry Camp #3-Remedial Academics

Cohort Total: 53

SPEP ID: 36-T02

Selected Timeframe: Mar. 1, 2016 – Mar. 1, 2017

Date(s) of Interview(s): May 3, 2017

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Tracie Davies, Lehigh Co., & Heather Perry, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Tracie Davies and Heather Perry

Description of Service: *This should include a **brief** overview of the service within the context of the program, the location and if community based or residential. Indicate the type of youth referred, how the service is delivered, the purpose of service and any other **relevant** information to help the reader understand the SPEP service type classification. (350 character limit)*

BJJS is responsible for the management, operations, program planning and oversight of PA's youth development center/youth forestry camp facilities. These facilities are designed to provide state-of-the-art treatment, care and custody services to Pennsylvania's most at-risk youth. The facilities serve both male and female adolescents who have been adjudicated delinquent by the juvenile court. Treatment services are individualized based on strengths and needs. Youth Forestry Camp #3 (YFC#3) is a 50 bed open residential facility, that serves adjudicated males between the ages of 14 and 20. There are two types of treatment paths available to the youth at YFC#3. B Dorm combines both individual and group counseling and consists of a 3 track system. First Step or A Dorm, is comprised of an 112 day, 16 week program for residents who have been identified as having significant substance abuse. The focus of this report is the academic services/educational programs that are provided at YFC#3. Education delivery is accomplished through competency-based individualized instruction, with multiple delivery modes and educational strategies. The educational and vocational programming is designed to meet the standards of the Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT). Upon intake, each youth receives a series of diagnostic tests to include, pre and post TABE tests and Odysseyware. These tests determine grade levels, abilities and interests. Core subjects are covered such as, English, Science, Social Studies, Math, Computer Applications and Life Skills; as are more specialized needs such as Special Education, which include emotional and learning support. Remedial Math and Remedial Reading is offered for really low scoring students which provides more individualized attention. Home schools are contacted to obtain school records and determine the youth's graduation requirements. Each youth receives his own lesson/educational plan often referred to as the Individual Plan of Instruction (IPI). This is similar to an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which is a combination of remedial and vocational goals based on individual ability level. The school operates on a 180-day school year and students receive an average of 5 ½ hours of instruction per each day. There are currently 2 Special Education teachers and a full time Para Professional. The facility is in the process of hiring a 2nd Para Professional to work with the students. There are 4-6 students per classroom. Coaching and tutoring are provided on a daily basis. Students are divided based on ability but do consider behavior and age, including older students who are working toward their high school diploma. There is GED preparation for those who wish to obtain their GED. GED testing if offered on-site as well as SAT and ASVAB.

The four characteristics of a service found to be the most strongly related to reducing recidivism:

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Remedial Academic Program

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? Yes

If so, what is the Service type? Job related training

Was the supplemental service provided? Yes Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 15

Total Points Earned: 15 Total Points Possible: 35

2. **Quality of Service:** Research has shown that programs that deliver service with high quality are more likely to have a positive impact on recidivism reduction. Monitoring of quality is defined by existence of written protocol, staff training and supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Earned: 20 Total Points Possible: 20

3. **Amount of Service:** Score was derived from examination of weeks and hours each youth in the cohort received the service. The amount of service is measured by the target amounts of service for the SPEP service categorization. Each SPEP service type has varying amounts of duration and dosage. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction.

Points received for Duration or Number of Weeks: 0

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 10

Total Points Earned: 10 Total Points Possible: 20

4. **Youth Risk Level:** The risk level score is compiled by calculating the total % of youth that score above low risk, and the total % of youth who score above moderate risk to reoffend based on the results of the YLS.

52 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points

18 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 10 points

Total Points Earned: 22 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 67 total points awarded out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP therapeutic service. (eg: individual counseling compared to cognitive behavioral therapy, social skills training, mentoring, etc.)

Note: Services with scores greater than or equal to 50 show the service is having a positive impact on recidivism reduction.

Program Optimization Percentage: 84% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (eg: individual counseling compared to all other individual counseling services included in the research)

The SPEP and Performance Improvement

The intended use of the SPEP is to optimize the effectiveness of reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders. Recommendations for performance improvement are included in the service feedback report, and these recommendations are the focus of the performance improvement plan, a shared responsibility of the service provider and the local juvenile court. The recommendations for this service included in the feedback report are:

The Job Training Program scored a 67 for the Basic Score and 84% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 2 service – Remedial Academic Program service type. These scores represent a decrease from the baseline findings of the initial SPEP™ scoring results. *It should be noted that during this cohort timeframe, 3 youth went AWOL and were subsequently removed from the program. Further, 9 youth were released before the youth successfully completed the program and 1 aged out. If these 13 youth had reached the recommended duration, an additional 4 points would have been earned in the duration category.

The program could continue to improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Enhance the current Policy/practice to identify specific corrective action steps that would occur when drift in service delivery is identified.
2. Explore opportunities to ensure students reach a minimum of 26 weeks of service

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment 2 SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0036-T03

Agency/Program Name: Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS)/Youth Forestry Camp 3 (YFC 3): B-Dorm & First Step

Service Name: Remedial Academics

Cohort Total: 78

Cohort Time Frame: Youth that began the service on/after January 1, 2020 and ended on/before December 31, 2021

Referral County(s): Allegheny (15); Bucks (12); Butler (1); Centre (1); Columbia (1); Dauphin (3); Erie (3); Lehigh (1); Mercer (3); Philadelphia (29); Washington (1); Westmoreland (1); Wyoming (1); York (6)

Feedback Report Delivery: May 4, 2023

County/Probation Officer(s) Involved: Lehigh - Tracie Henry, JPO II and Eva Frederick, JPO II
Beaver - Brandi Sabol, JPO and Marshall Clark, JPO

EPIS SIS(s): Dawn Karoscik, Lisa Fetzer, and Christa Park

Youth Forestry Camp 3 (YFC 3) is in Huntingdon County and serves youths age 13 to 20. It is an open residential facility for adjudicated delinquent male youth. YFC 3 supports positive change through a multi-program approach in a safe and open environment. Two distinct living and treatment units are available; B-Dorm Residential program and the First Step program:

- B-Dorm Residential houses 18 male youth and has open intake and duration, with 4 months usually considered the ideal minimum length of stay. Treatment modalities combine both individual and group counseling which focuses heavily on cognitive change using Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy (REBT), an evidenced-based CBT (cognitive behavioral therapy) practice.
- First Step Program houses 18 male youth and is intended for residents whose history includes a significant substance-related component. The program has open intake, and a minimum duration of 16 weeks. It can be determined at intake the first opportunity a resident would have to meet the program goals; but, a resident determines their duration through treatment involvement and practice of CBT concepts.

Educational and vocational services are run directly through the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11. Education delivery is accomplished through competency-based individualized instruction, with multiple delivery modes and educational strategies. The educational and vocational programming is designed to meet the standards of the Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT).

Upon intake, each youth receives a series of diagnostic tests to include, pre and post Renaissance Star tests and Odysseyware. These tests determine grade levels, abilities and interests. Core subjects are covered such as, English, Science, Social Studies, Math, Computer Applications and Life Skills; as are more specialized needs such as Special Education, which include emotional and learning support. Remedial Math and Remedial Reading are offered for really low scoring students which provides more individualized attention. Home schools are contacted to obtain school records and determine the youth's graduation requirements. Each youth receives his own lesson/educational plan often referred to as the Individual Plan of Instruction (IPI). This is similar to an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which is a combination of remedial and vocational goals based on individual ability level.

The school operates on a 180-day school year and students receive an average of 5 ½ hours of instruction per each day. There are currently two Special Education teachers and a full time Paraprofessional. The facility is in the process of hiring a second Paraprofessional to work with the students. There are 4-6 students per classroom. Coaching and tutoring are provided on a daily basis. Students are divided based on ability, but they do consider behavior and age, including older students who are working toward their high school diploma and General Equivalency Diploma (GED) preparation for those who wish to obtain their GED. GED testing is offered on-site as well as Scholastic Aptitude Testing (SAT) and Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).

The four characteristics of a service found to be the most strongly related to reducing recidivism:

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Remedial Academic Program

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? Yes

If so, what is the Service Type? Job Related Training

Was the supplemental service provided? Yes Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 15

Total Points Received: 15 Total Points Possible: 35

2. **Quality of Service:** Research has shown that programs that deliver service with high quality are more likely to have a positive impact on recidivism reduction. Monitoring of quality is defined by existence of written protocol, staff training, staff supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Received: 20 Total Points Possible: 20

3. Amount of Service: Score was derived by calculating the total number of weeks and hours received by each youth in the service. The amount of service is measured by the target amounts of service for the SPEP™ service categorization. Each SPEP™ service type has varying amounts of duration and dosage. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction. Targeted duration and dosage for this service is 26 weeks, 100 hours.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| <u>6</u> | youth in the cohort of | <u>78</u> | received the targeted Duration or Number of Weeks for a total | <u>0</u> | points |
| <u>75</u> | youth in the cohort of | <u>78</u> | of received the targeted Dosage or Number of Hours for a total of | <u>8</u> | points |

Total Points Received: 8 **Total Points Possible:** 20

4. Youth Risk Level: The risk level score is compiled by calculating the total % of youth that score above low risk, and the total % of youth who score above moderate risk to reoffend based on the results of the YLS. The Risk Levels of Youth admitted to the service were: 6 low risk, 44 moderate risk, 27 , high risk, and 1 very high risk.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| <u>72</u> | youth in the cohort of | <u>78</u> | are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of | <u>10</u> | points |
| <u>28</u> | youth in the cohort of | <u>78</u> | are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of | <u>13</u> | points |

Total Points Received: 23 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 66 total points received out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP™ therapeutic service. (e.g. individual counseling compared to cognitive behavioral therapy, social skills training, mentoring, etc.)

Note: Services with scores greater than or equal to 50 show the service is having a positive impact on recidivism reduction.

Program Optimization Percentage: 83% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (e.g. individual counseling compared to all other individual counseling services included in the research.)

The SPEP™ and Performance Improvement

The intended use of the SPEP™ is to optimize the effectiveness of reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by addressing the following recommendations:

1. Regarding Amount of Service:
 - a. Maintain communication between YFC 3 and committing counties regarding research recommended targeted amount of service to ensure youth are not being discharged early.
2. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:
 - a. Continue to communicate with committing counties to ensure youth are receiving the research supported targeted risk population recommended for this service type. There are larger positive effects on recidivism reduction with higher risk youth.