

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Time: 151-T01

Agency Name: McKean County Juvenile Probation
Program Name: Boondoc's Program
Service Name: Boondoc's Program
Cohort Total: 18 juveniles for Amount of Service/17 juveniles for Risk Level
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: June 15, 2015 through August 5, 2016
Referral County(s): McKean
Date(s) of Interview(s): January 25, 2017 and April 3, 2017
Lead County: McKean
Probation Representative(s): Angela Work
EPIS Representative: Shawn Peck

Description of Service:

McKean County Juvenile Probation delivers the Boondoc's Program, a skill building program developed by the McKean County Juvenile Court in conjunction with McKean County Juvenile Probation. The program is based around stream stabilization for fish habitation and works in tandem with stakeholders including the Fish and Boat Commission, McKean County Department of Human Services and the Northcentral Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission. The targeted population for this service includes adjudicated delinquent or dependent male juveniles between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, with active court involvement and supervision of the Juvenile Probation Department or Children and Youth Services. This service is offered one time annually, for eight weeks beginning in June and ending in August. There are a maximum of fourteen juveniles accepted for referral to the program, although if less referrals are received the program will operate with a smaller group of juveniles. During the eight weeks of the Boondoc's Program, Juvenile Probation Officers along with summer staff, work with the juveniles and their parents/guardians to teach valuable life skills including work ethic and responsibility. Working together, the objective of this program is to teach juveniles and parents new skills that will promote a positive change in behaviors.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Restitution/Community Service

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? No

If so, what is the Service Type? There is no qualifying supplemental service

Was the supplemental service provided? N/A **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: 5 **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.

14/17 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 7 points

4/17 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 5 points

Total Points Received: 12 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 40 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: 50% 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.

The Boondoc's Program scored a 50% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 2 service, Restitution/Community Service Group, with no qualifying supplemental service. The quality of the service was found to be at a Low Level. The amount of service provided to the clients was 0% of the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 94% of the recommended target contact hours for this service type. The risk levels of juveniles admitted to the program were 17% as low risk, 59% as moderate risk, 24% as high risk and 0% as very high.

The Boondoc's Program could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality of Service:

a. Protocol

i. Incorporate the components and processes into a manual/protocol:

1. Describing each component of the program
2. Describing the processes of the program
3. Describing steps of implementation

ii. Develop a routine schedule to update the manual

iii. Develop documentation process to ensure manual/protocol is delivered as intended

b. Staff Training

i. Develop a specialized training for all staff delivering the services that describes:

1. The mission and purpose of juvenile justice/probation practices
2. The components and processes of the program
3. Expectations of staff, juvenile, and parents

ii. Ensure all supervisors participate in training

c. Staff Supervision

i. Develop a process to monitor the delivery of this service

ii. Utilize documentation process to ensure manual/protocol is delivered as intended

iii. Ensure the supervisor provides written feedback for those who deliver this service

iv. Include information specific to the delivery of this service in performance appraisals

d. Response to Drift:

i. Develop policy/procedures that outline how to prevent drift from occurring while delivering this service

ii. Ensure the organizational response to drift includes specific action steps including an "if-then" approach, for the agency to take to avoid drift

2. Regarding Amount of Service:

a. Modify length of service by adding 4 weeks to better align with targeted service amount of 12 weeks

b. Develop and utilize a Graduated Response Matrix to reward completed dosage and duration hours with credited community service hours.

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment 1



SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0151-T02

Agency Name: McKean County Juvenile Probation

Program Name: Boondoc's

Service Name: Boondoc's

Cohort Total: Youth for Amount of Service: 11 ; Youth for Amount of Risk: 11

Cohort Time Frame: Youth that began the service on/after May 3, 2021 and ended this service on/before August 18, 2022

Referral County(s): McKean (11)

Date(s) of Interview(s): Service Classification: October 18, 2022 ; Quality of Service: October 18, 2022

Feedback Report Delivery: November 14, 2022

Lead County/Probation Officer(s): Teresa Wilcox

Additional Probation Officer(s): N/A

EPIS SIS(s): Shannon O'Lone

Description of Service:

McKean County Juvenile Probation delivers the Boondoc's Program, a skill building program developed by the McKean County Juvenile Court in conjunction with McKean County Juvenile Probation. The program is based around stream stabilization for fish habitation and works in tandem with stakeholders including the McKean County Conservation District, McKean County Department of Human Services and the McKean County CareerLink. The targeted population for this service includes adjudicated delinquent or dependent male youth between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, with active court involvement and supervision of the Juvenile Probation Department or Children and Youth Services. Youth do not need to owe monies to be referred to Boondoc's to receive its benefits, however, a youth can expect to earn up to 240 hours (\$9.50/hour eligibility/determination made by CareerLink) during the program. This service is offered one time annually, for twelve weeks beginning in May and ending in August, an improvement in duration and subsequent dosage since the Baseline assessment. A maximum of fourteen youth can be accepted for referral to the program, although if less referrals are received the program will operate with a smaller group of youth. During the twelve weeks of the Boondoc's Program, Juvenile Probation Officers along with summer staff, work with the youth to teach valuable life skills including work ethic and responsibility. The Boondoc's Program was extended to reach targets for dosage and duration according to the SPEP™ research for increased impact on recidivism reduction. The additional program length now incorporates the court hearing and swearing in of youth into the program, CareerLink assessment/s, Victim Community Awareness curriculum, several weeks of hands-on work experience, weekly cognitive behavioral groups/classes (NCTI®, Forward Thinking Journals, Carey Guides), and a final community service project with various community organizations at the McKean County Fair. Working together with parents throughout this process, the objective of this program is to teach youth new skills that will promote a positive change in behaviors.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Restitution/Community Service

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? No

If so, what is the Service Type? There is no qualifying supplemental service

Was the supplemental service provided? N/A

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 12 weeks, 60 hours.

<u>8</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>11</u>	received the targeted Duration or Number of Weeks for a total of	<u>6</u>	points
<u>9</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>11</u>	received the targeted Dosage or Number of Hours for a total of	<u>8</u>	points

Total Points Received: 14 **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: 4 low risk, 6 moderate risk, 1 high risk, and 0 very high risk.

<u>7</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>11</u>	are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>5</u>	points
<u>1</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>11</u>	are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>0</u>	points

Total Points Received: 5 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 54 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: 68% 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. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:

a. Staff Training:

- i. Consider adding a checklist/checkbox for aspects of staff training on the Training Verification Form
- ii. Consider adding duties more specific to the role of the supervisor in supervisor description

b. Organizational Response to Drift:

- i. Consider adding a checklist/checkbox to the existing Drift Remediation Form
- ii. Consider ways to convert the additional verbal quality assessment practices into a documented form