

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: The Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS)-Life Skills Class

Cohort Total: 55

SPEP ID: 222-T01

Selected Timeframe: Aug. 20, 2015-Dec. 21, 2017

Date(s) of Interview(s): Feb. 22, 2018

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Danielle Salisbury, York Co., and Heather Perry, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Danielle Salisbury 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)*

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 the juvenile court. Treatment services are individualized based on strengths and needs. The Balanced and Restorative Justice principles are consistently rooted throughout each facility. South Mountain Secure Treatment Facility (SMSTU) is a state secure facility that provides residential services for up to 36 moderate to high risk male youth. It is located at 10056 South Mountain Road, South Mountain, PA 17261. Referrals are made to the State Court Liaison for SMSTU by the juvenile probation department. The State Court liaison determines whether the youth is appropriate for SMSTU or another state facility. This facility consists of three separate units and a school. Each unit has a specific focus in terms of the treatment received by the youth: The Sexual Attitudes/Behavior Program, or Charlie Unit, specializes in services for adjudicated youth with sexual behavior problems. The Delta Unit services lower functioning youth. The Habitual and Serious Offenders Program is located in the Alpha Unit. The primary services include ART®, PTND, Victim Awareness Course, Casey Life Skills, and Sexual Attitudes/Behavior specific treatment. The focus of this report is the Life Skills Class. According to the Life Skills class instructor, each youth in the SMSTU receives Life Skills for 45 minutes weekly during school. The emphasis is for youth to acquire skills to work together, follow directions, and gain knowledge they may use in their daily lives. The Odysseyware tool is used for pre-and post-testing to evaluate youth functioning levels. Staff utilize videos, work sheets, newspapers, speakers/presenters, internet resources, and hands-on instruction. Life Skills Class covers a variety of topics, which include but are not limited to: Introduction to Nutrients; Nutrient Groups/Presentations; Carbohydrates, Proteins, Fats; and Nutrition-labels, measurements and meal planning; Nutrition, Money Management, and Transportation. Youth learn how to cook for approximately 1 month. There is a unit that focuses on Sexual Education and Healthy Sexual Relations. Students also learn how to find housing and learn about leases. Additionally, Odysseyware is used as a supplement to enhance the Life Skills class.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Social Skills Training

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: 20

Total Points Earned: 20 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: 8

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 8

Total Points Earned: 16 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.

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

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

Total Points Earned: 25 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 81 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: 96% 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: SMSTU's Life Skills Class program scored an 81 for the Basic Score and a 96% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as Group 3 service – Social Skills Training service type. The program could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Written Protocol:
 - a. Enhance the current protocol/manual by adding the criminogenic needs and risk factors to the target population section on Page 3.
2. Staff Training:
 - a. Complete at least 1 booster training annually that is specific to the Life Skills class.
3. Organizational Response to Drift:
 - a. Document procedures that specifically address steps to be taken should staff fail to deliver individual counseling as it is intended to be delivered; and ensure that these procedures are systematically implemented.
 - b. Develop a case closing survey that evaluates the effectiveness of the service. Use the survey, test scores and outcome data to enhance the Life Skills class at least annually.
4. Investigate ways to enhance amount of service to reach 16 weeks and 24 hours.

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment 1

SPEP™ ID and Time: 0222-T02

Agency Name: Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS)

Program Name: South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit (SMSTU)

Service Name: Life Skills Class

Cohort Total: 92 (79 for Level of Risk)

Timeframe of Selected Cohort: January 17, 2019 - December 31, 2020

Referral County(s): Adams (1), Allegheny (12), Bedford (1), Bucks (5), Butler (1), Carbon (1), Chester (3), Dauphin (1), Delaware (3), Erie (5), Fayette (2), Franklin (3), Jefferson (1), Lebanon (2), Lehigh (3), Lycoming (1), Monroe (5), Montgomery (5), Northampton (5), Philadelphia (22), Schuylkill (1), Susquehanna (1), Tioga (1), Westmoreland (2), Wyoming (1) and York (4).

Date(s) of Interview(s): February 26, 2021, October 7, 2021 and February 24, 2022

Lead County: York

Probation Representative(s): Danielle Salisbury (York), Joe Gifford (Dauphin) and Andrew Guise (York)

EPIS Representative: Lisa Freese

Description of Service:

South Mountain Secure Treatment Facility (SMSTU) is a state secure facility that provides residential services for up to 36 moderate to high risk male youth. Referrals are made to the State Court Liaison for SMSTU by the juvenile probation department. The State Court liaison determines whether the youth is appropriate for SMSTU or another state facility. This facility consists of three separate units and a school. Each unit has a specific focus in terms of the treatment received by the youth: The Sexual Attitudes/Behavior Program, or Charlie Unit, specializes in services for adjudicated youth with sexual behavior problems. The Delta Unit services lower functioning youth. The Habitual and Serious Offenders Program is located in the Alpha Unit. The primary services include PTNDA, Victim Awareness Curriculum and Sexual Attitudes/Behavior specific treatment.

The focus of this report is the Life Skills Class. This class is part of the school which is run by Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11. According to the Life Skills class instructor, each youth in the SMSTU receives Life Skills for 45 minutes weekly during school. The emphasis is for youth to acquire skills to work together, follow directions, and gain knowledge they may use in their daily lives. The Odysseyware tool is used for pre-and post-testing to evaluate youth functioning levels. Staff utilize videos, work sheets, newspapers, speakers/presenters, internet resources, and hands-on instruction.

Life Skills Class covers a variety of topics, which include but are not limited to:

Introduction to Nutrients; Nutrient Groups/Presentations; Carbohydrates, Proteins, Fats; and Nutrition-labels, measurements and meal planning; Nutrition, Money Management, and Transportation. Youth learn how to cook for approximately 1 month. There is a unit that focuses on Sexual Education and Healthy Sexual Relations as well as a driver's education and simulation course. Students also learn how to find housing and learn about leases. Additionally, Odysseyware is used as a supplement to enhance the Life Skills class.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Social Skills Training

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:** 20

Total Points Received: 20 **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: 4
Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours: 6

Total Points Received: 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.

67 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of youth 10 points
25 in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 10 points

Total Points Received: 20 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 70 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: 82% 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.

Life Skills Class received a 70 for the Basic Score and an 82% Program Optimization Percentage. These Basic Scores represent a decrease of 16 percentage point(s) from the initial SPEP™ Assessment. These POP Scores represent a decrease of 15 percentage point(s) from the initial SPEP™ Assessment.

The service was classified as a Group 3 service; Social Skills Training Service Type. There is no qualifying supplemental service found in the research. The Quality of Service Delivery was found to be at a High Level. For Amount of Service, 50% of the youth received the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 79% of the youth received the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The Risk Levels of Youth admitted to the service were: 15% low risk, 53% moderate risk, 30% high risk, and 1% very high risk. As stated earlier in this report, the amount of service was significantly impacted by Covid, given 10 months of the cohort timeframe was during the pandemic. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by addressing the following recommendations:

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:
 - a. Identify a means to document continuing education credits or any training that occurs at pre-determine timeframes.
2. Regarding Amount of Service:
 - a. Continue to remind referral sources of the targeted amount of duration.
 - b. Investigate ways to continue to increase dosage. This could be accomplished through additional homework assignments or weekend review of curriculum.