

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

*Service Score Results:* Baseline

**Name of Program and Service:** Youth Forestry Camp #2 (YFC 2) - Business Math

Cohort Total: 33

SPEP ID: 239-T01

Selected Timeframe: Jan. 1, 2017 – Aug. 31, 2018

Date(s) of Interview(s): Sep. 19, 2018

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Rich Kubicek, Bucks Co.; Neal Johnson, Luzerne Co.; Lisa Freese & Heather Perry, EPIS

Person Preparing Report: Lisa Freese, EPISCenter

**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)*

Youth Forestry Camp #2 (YFC #2) is a residential program for adjudicated delinquent males ranging in age from 14-20 years old. Located in Carbon County, it is operated and overseen by the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS). Referrals are typically made by county juvenile probation departments through the State Court Liaison Unit. YFC #2 offers a variety of services intended to meet the individualized treatment and behavioral needs of its residents identified by the Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLS). There are two separate residences on grounds with 12 beds in each unit. Residents placed in Lehigh Lodge participate in the Liberty Program, which offers general treatment services. Conversely, residents with identified substance abuse issues are placed in Delaware Lodge and are enrolled in the Short-Term Addiction Recovery Treatment (START) Program. All treatment and aftercare planning is guided by the tenets of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ).

The focus of this report is the Business Math Class. According to the class instructor, students learn skills they will use to manage personal finances. This includes budgeting, calculating interest on loans, credit and credit score, checking, time cards, paychecks and taxes, insurance and more. The class is held two times per day, five days per week, with 4-6 youth in the classroom. Every Friday is a lesson in Microsoft Office. This elective is an open class meaning that youth start with the lesson the class is currently on; proficiency in basic math skills is assessed upon admission to the 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: 6

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 8

Total Points Earned: 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.

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

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

Total Points Earned: 23 Total Points Possible: 25

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**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 77 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:** 91% 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)

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## 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 Youth Forestry Camp #2 Business Math Class scored a 77 for the Basic Score and a 91% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as Group 3 service – Social Skills Training service type. This service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Quality of Service Delivery:
  - a. Written Protocol:
    - i. Enhance the current protocol/manual by adding the criminogenic needs and risk factors targeted for this service.
  - b. Organizational Response to Drift:
    - i. Document procedures that specifically address steps to be taken should staff fail to deliver Business Math Class as it is intended to be delivered; and ensure that these procedures are systematically implemented.
    - ii. Develop a case closing survey that evaluates the effectiveness of the service. Use the survey, test scores and outcome data to enhance the Business Math Class annually.
2. Amount of Service:
  - a. Collaborate with referral sources and explore ways to meet the targeted duration and dosage amounts.