

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Community Service Foundation Day Treatment Group Counseling

Cohort Total: 12

SPEP ID: 41

Selected Timeframe: 9/24/2013

Date(s) of Interview(s): 9/24/2013

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Bucks County, William Batty, Maureen Raquet & Heather Perry

Person Preparing Report: William Batty & 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)*

Community Service Foundation (CSF) has been in operation since 1977 and the organization operates a variety of programs throughout Bucks County and other surrounding counties. The organization consists of two separate entities and they are as follows: 1. Community Service Foundation and this is the counseling component of the operation and, 2. Buxmont Academy and this is the alternative education component of the organization. The Day Treatment Program is the identified program for this report. The Day Treatment Program operates in five locations and they are as follows: Bethlehem, Feasterville, Pottstown, Sellersville and Woodlyn. Juvenile probationers under the supervision of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas – Juvenile Division attend the Feasterville and Sellersville locations. The Day Treatment Program operates in a school setting (Buxmont Academy). It receives referrals from school districts, Children and Youth Social Services Agency, and the Juvenile Probation Department. Referrals are juveniles who are in grades 7 through 12. It is a program that operates within a school schedule. Juveniles participate in academic classes in the morning and Group Dynamics (counseling) in the afternoon. Certified teachers instruct the academic classes and trained counselors facilitate group dynamics (counseling).

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Group Counseling

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

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: 30

Total Points Earned: 30 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: 2

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 6

Total Points Earned: 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.

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

0 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 0 points

Total Points Earned: 10 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 68 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: 72% 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:

1. Striving to ensure each student reaches a minimum of 24 weeks of service by collaborating with the probation department and investigating ways to meet targets for amount of service (duration and contact hours) for Group Counseling service type.
2. Tracking the group sessions that are not included in the regular schedule to increase opportunity to meet target for amount of service (contact hours) for Group Counseling service type.
3. Ensuring YLS data is included in the referral packet from the probation department.
4. Tracking YLS data the Probation office provides.
5. Targeting high risk youth and eliminating low risk youth referred to the program.
6. Educating service delivery staff and supervisors on the YLS, perhaps this could be included as a training opportunity.
7. Strengthening the Playbook by being more specific when describing the services to be provided as well as the specific audience (ie. age range, level of risk).

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment

Name of Program and Service: Community Service Foundation- Restorative Empower and Develop Youth (READY)

Cohort Total: 27

SPEP ID: 41-T02

Selected Timeframe: Oct. 31, 2014-Oct. 11, 2016

Date(s) of Interview(s): Nov. 30, 2016

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: B. Batty, N. Caramenico & S. Stewart, Bucks Co. & H. Perry, EPIS

Person Preparing Report: Bill Batty, Nick Caramenico, Sandy Stewart & 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)*

Community Service Foundation (CSF) has been in operation since 1977 and the organization operates a variety of programs throughout Bucks County and other surrounding counties. The organization consists of two separate entities that include CSF, the counseling component of the operation and Buxmont Academy, the private academic component of the organization. READY, the identified program for this report, operates in five locations and they are as follows: Bethlehem, Feasterville, Pottstown, Sellersville and Woodlyn. Juvenile probationers who are under the supervision of the Bucks County Juvenile Probation Office (BCJPO) attend the Feasterville and Sellersville locations. READY operates in a school setting (Buxmont Academy) and receives referrals from school districts, C&Y Social Services Agency, and JPO. The READY Program provides intensive social and emotional development opportunities that immerse clients in a restorative milieu utilizing multimodal evidence-based approaches coupled with rigorous academics. The underlying philosophy is restorative and the premise is that positive changes occur “when those in authority do things with them, rather than to them or for them.” Academic classes are conducted throughout the day with Group Dynamics (counseling) a part of the daily afternoon schedule. READY’s student schedule includes daily participation in 6 academic classes (English, Math, Digital ARTS, Social Studies, Science and Career Development/Physical Education, Music/ART) and 1 group dynamic class. READY has an emphasis on academics with counseling. The academic emphasis involves blended learning which integrates technology and learning content. Blended learning is versatile and prescriptive in meeting the many and various academic needs faced by the students who attend READY. Certified teachers instruct the academic classes and trained counselors facilitate group dynamics (counseling). The groups have two tracks. One track is students who participate in the group counseling service type at minimum 5 times per week and the other track is students who participate in a 10 week Aggression Replacement Training 3 times per week plus group counseling 2 times per week. Also, responsive groups are utilized as needed to handle issues that arise during the course of the school day. The READY program description is as follows: 1. Students are males and females between the ages of 12 and 18 years old who have a wide range of emotional and behavioral problems. 2. Special aftercare services are provided for youths returning from drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs. 3. Full-time counselors have a caseload of 12 clients who they see individually and in small groups throughout the day.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Group Counseling

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

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: 30

Total Points Earned: 30 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: 2

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 4

Total Points Earned: 6 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.

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

5 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 3 points

Total Points Earned: 15 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 71 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: 75% 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:

READY scored a 71 for the Basic Score and 75% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group Counseling service type. These scores represent an increase from the baseline findings (9/24/13) of the initial SPEP scoring results. The program could continue to improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by:

1. Strengthening the READY Restorative Practices Playbook by:

- Adding the criminogenic needs that are targeted by the group counseling service type in the program description and court reports,
- Adding targeted offender risk levels, group counseling service type and its dosage and duration to the program description and Playbook,
- Adding age, gender, targeted criminogenic needs to describe the targeted population in the Playbook,
- Adding "Adherence to Restorative Playbook" to the Program Fidelity Checklist,
- Adding the frequency of reviewing/updating the Playbook in the Playbook and dating its occurrence,
- Adding required type and # of hours for new hire orientation training to Staff Training Plan on page 23 of Playbook,
- Adding required type and # of hours for existing staff booster training in Staff Training Plan on page 23 in Playbook, and
- Adding staff supervision expectation to the Playbook by frequency and type in the Basic Concept for Staff or Supervision section of Playbook or create a separate supervision expectation section.

2. Collaborating with BCJPO to:

- Improve meeting required dosage (40 hours) and duration (24 weeks) for the group counseling service type, and
- Continue to submit outcome measure forms to BCJPO

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment 2

SPEP™ ID and Time: 041-T03

Agency Name: Community Service Foundation (CSF)

Program Name: Restorative Empower and Develop Youth (READY)

Service Name: Group Counseling

Cohort Total: 27

Timeframe of Selected Cohort: Began the service on/after June 1, 2018 and ended the service on/before March 1, 2020

Referral County(s): Bucks

Date(s) of Interview(s): March 30, 2021

Lead County: Bucks

Probation Representative(s): Nick Caramenico & Rich Kubicek

EPIS Representative: Kevin Perluke

Description of Service:

The READY Program serves adolescents at its sites in Bethlehem, Feasterville, Pottstown, Sellersville and Woodlyn. The program, up to six hours daily, includes education provided by Buxmont Academy (the Foundation's secondary school license), as well as individual and group counseling and family intervention. The READY Program is a licensed day treatment program. The primary criteria for admission is the recommendation of the caseworker or probation officer. We interview the prospective client at the READY site. The client may begin as soon as transportation is arranged. The maximum capacity in all schools is 60-75 clients.

Clients are both males and females from 12 to 18 years old, with a wide range of emotional and behavioral problems, including drug and alcohol abuse; learning difficulties; family or legal problems; aggressive behavior; lack of self-esteem; mental health issues, such as depression or attempted suicide; and impulsiveness and other consequences of a dysfunctional family or sexual, physical or emotional abuse. Special aftercare services are provided for youths returning from drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.

The READY Program provides intensive social and emotional development opportunities that immerse clients in a restorative milieu utilizing multimodal evidence-based approaches coupled with rigorous academics.

READY counselors have caseloads of up to 12 clients who they see individually and in small groups throughout the day. The counselors are assisted by academic teachers, plus a digital arts teacher, a music teacher and an art teacher, who provide an educational program tailored to meet each individual's needs. Counselors also communicate and cooperate with community psychiatric and psychological services provided to clients at the discretion of the probation officer, parents or caseworker.

Parents are encouraged to come to the initial interview and ISP meetings, so they may meet counselors on a "non-crisis" basis. Counselors are in regular telephone contact with parents/caretakers. Family intervention sessions occur when the counselor needs parental support on school issues or when parents need assistance in resolving conflicts or setting behavioral limits with their child.

Aggression Replacement Training®, an Evidenced-Based, Cognitive/Behavioral Program, was added in 2011. The program curriculum is designed to help adolescents learn and practice interpersonal skills, manage emotions more effectively, improve communication and develop better decision-making abilities. Aggression Replacement Training® is comprised of three components: Skill Streaming, Anger Control and Moral Reasoning. The program lasts for 10 weeks, with the three component groups taking place once per week. Aggression Replacement Training® is offered at all READY sites.

CSF has participated in the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) improvement process for delinquent youth. The READY program is evaluated as a Group 4 group counseling service for juveniles identified as moderate risk. The criminogenic needs that are targeted by this service are:

- Attitudes/Orientation
- Personality/Behavior
- Education/Employment

The targeted duration for the Group 4 group counseling service type is 24 weeks, and the targeted dosage is 40 hours. This is a validated and data-driven rating system for evaluating program effectiveness. Results show that READY clients receive quality service and appropriate level of care needed to reduce recidivism.

Community participation in the program is provided by representation from the community on the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Client grievances are handled by counselors. If not satisfied, the issue goes to the coordinators and the program director, then the Executive Director and ultimately the Board of Directors. Clients may involve another individual to support them. Behavior is managed by involving clients in the development and enforcement of program rules and policies based in restorative practices. We foster leadership in support of positive behavior and expect the whole group to take responsibility for the program environment. Written or verbal behavior contracts help define individual and group consequences for inappropriate behavior and structure positive steps to remedy each situation.

Learning software, programming and technology have been added to instruction in order to supplement services for assessment and credit recovery, and to enhance academic transitions. The curriculum for Buxmont Academy is aligned with the PA Core Standards. Special education writing and monitoring of the IEP are also included in order to improve service delivery to identified special needs clients at all READY centers.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Group Counseling

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: 30

Total Points Received: 30 **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: 2
Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours: 4

Total Points Received: 6 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.

27 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points
14 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: 81 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. Quality of Service Delivery:
 - a. Written Protocol:
 - i. Ensure that the manual is reviewed and updated at predetermined timeframes.
2. Regarding Amount of Service:
 - a. Maintain communication between CSF Ready and Bucks County Juvenile Probation regarding youth being discharged early from the program without looking at the research recommended targeted amount of service.
 - b. Create a mechanism to differentiate school program youth and summer program youth.
3. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:
 - a. Continue to communicate with Bucks County Juvenile Probation regarding the research- supported targeted risk population recommended for this service type; there are larger positive effects on recidivism with high risk juveniles.