

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Abraxas Youth & Family Services-Abraxas WorkBridge-Aggression Replacement Training
Cohort Total: 30 SPEP ID: 79
Selected Timeframe: Feb. 2014-Dec. 2014
Date(s) of Interview(s): Jan. 27, 2015
Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Doug Braden, Allegheny Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter
Person Preparing Report: Shawn Peck & Doug Braden

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)*

Abraxas WorkBridge is a community-based program that serves male and female juvenile offenders ages 10-21 referred by the Juvenile Court of Allegheny County. In order for a youth to receive services from WorkBridge they must be residents of Allegheny County. WorkBridge provides numerous services that are related to community service and restitution. The goals of this program align with the Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ) principles by holding youth accountable for their actions and providing an opportunity for them to earn restitution to pay back their victims. They also complete community service, enhancing their competency development to better prepare them for employment, and partner with the community to help complete special projects that help citizens who have been a victim of a crime. The program leadership identifies four distinct services in their program description; The Community Service component, The Stipend Program, The Community Repair Crew component, and The Employment Initiative component.

In addition, Abraxas WorkBridge delivers Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®) to youth referred by Allegheny County Juvenile court. ART® is a multimodal psycho educational intervention designed to alter the behavior of chronically aggressive adolescents and young children. The program incorporates three specific interventions: Skillstreaming, anger-control training, and training in moral reasoning. Skillstreaming uses modeling, role-playing, performance feedback, to teach pro-social skills. In Anger Control Training, participating youth must bring to each session one or more descriptions of recent anger-arousing experiences (hassles) and are trained in how to respond to their hassles. Training in Moral Reasoning is designed to enhance youths' sense of fairness and justice regarding the needs and rights of others.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Cognitive-behavior Therapy

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: 35

Total Points Earned: 35 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: 6

Total Points Earned: 12 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.

26/30 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 10 points

1/30 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: 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: 77% 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 Abraxas WorkBridge service of Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®) scored a 77% Program Optimization Percentage. This intervention was categorized as a Group 5 service; Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy with no qualifying supplemental service. The quality of the service was found to be delivered at a High level. The risk levels of youth participating in this program are: 14% as Low Risk; 87% as Moderate Risk or above; and 4% as High Risk. The amount of service provided to the clients was at 74% of the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 74% of the recommended target contact hours for this service type.

Abraxas WorkBridge could improve their capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Improving upon ways to communicate with Allegheny County Juvenile Court per youth's attendance/participation in ART® and per development of strategies to improve upon youth attendance.
2. Implement new policy to address organizational response to drift.
3. More consistent utilization of pre and post tests to measure ART® outcomes for the agency as recommended by Educational Training Alternatives, ETA.

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment

Name of Program and Service: Abraxas Youth & Family Services-WorkBridge-Aggression Replacement Training

Cohort Total: 43

SPEP ID: 79

Selected Timeframe: Mar. 7, 2015-Nov. 14, 2015

Date(s) of Interview(s): Jan. 17, 2016

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Doug Braden, Allegheny Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Shawn Peck & Doug Braden

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)*

Abraxas WorkBridge is a community-based program that serves male and female juvenile offenders ages 10-21 referred by the Juvenile Court of Allegheny County. In order for a youth to receive services from WorkBridge they must be residents of Allegheny County. WorkBridge provides numerous services that are related to community service and restitution. The goals of this program align with the Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ) principles by holding youth accountable for their actions and providing an opportunity for them to earn restitution to pay back their victims. They also complete community service, enhancing their competency development to better prepare them for employment, and partner with the community to help complete special projects that help citizens who have been a victim of a crime. The program leadership identifies four distinct services in their program description; The Community Service component, The Stipend Program, The Community Repair Crew component, and The Employment Initiative component.

In addition, Abraxas WorkBridge delivers Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®) to youth referred by Allegheny County Juvenile court. ART is a multimodal psycho educational intervention designed to alter the behavior of chronically aggressive adolescents and young children. The program incorporates three specific interventions: Skillstreaming, anger-control training, and training in moral reasoning. Skillstreaming uses modeling, role-playing, performance feedback, to teach pro-social skills. In Anger Control Training, participating youth must bring to each session one or more descriptions of recent anger-arousing experiences (hassles) and are trained in how to respond to their hassles. Training in Moral Reasoning is designed to enhance youths' sense of fairness and justice regarding the needs and rights of others.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Cognitive-behavior Therapy

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: 35

Total Points Earned: 35 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: 6

Total Points Earned: 12 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.

39/43 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 10 points

7/43 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 3 points

Total Points Earned: 13 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 80 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: 80% 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:

Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®) as delivered by Abraxas WorkBridge scored an 80% for the Basic Score and an 80% Program Optimization Percentage. This service is classified as a Group 5 service; Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy service type. These scores show an increase of three percentage points from the baseline findings of the Initial SPEP™ Assessment.

1. Regarding Service Amount: Continue to communicate the recommended duration of Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®) with Allegheny County Juvenile Court.
2. Regarding Youth Level of Risk: Continue to accept Moderate to High Risk youth that are best suited for this service.