

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Time: 299-T01

Agency Name: Abraxas Youth and Family Services
Program Name: Lehigh Valley Community Based Program
Service Name: Family Structure Restoration (In-Home) Service
Cohort Total: 15
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: All delinquent youth who began this service on/after August 1, 2018 and ended this service on/before December 31, 2019
Referral County(s): Lehigh
Date(s) of Interview(s): February 24, 2020 and March 10, 2020
Lead County: Lehigh
Probation Representative(s): Eva Frederick and Tracie Davies, Lehigh County Juvenile Probation
EPIS Representative: Lisa Freese

Description of Service:

The In-Home Service, is a multi-dimensional approach that assists families in creating a solid foundation from which to build positive, sustainable change for the future (taken from their flyer). They work with both male and female clients typically ages 14 to 18. Contacts with youth consist of 1 to 2 per week over a duration of 3 to 6 months, with the average being around 3 months. The typical contact lasts 45 minutes to 1 hour. Each case manager carries a caseload of 4 to 5 clients at one time and makes 20 to 24 hours of caseload contact a week. Additionally, staff are available 24/7 to provide support for families at times of crisis. The focus for youth is individualized case management depending on their needs, whether it be following home expectations, reinforcing probation conditions, dealing with daily obstacles or offering mentoring on how to respond to situations as they arise. Contacts may take place at the offices of Abraxas, Lehigh County Juvenile Probation, the youth's home, school or in the community. To assist unenrolled youth in reaching their educational goals, the case manager will facilitate their reintegration back into school and monitor their attendance. To promote employment, staff will work with youth to complete applications on line or take them directly to businesses to apply. Effort is also devoted to increasing youth's involvement in positive activities. Quite frequently staff work with youth who have received prior services from a community-based program or in a residential facility. Case Managers then look to encourage application of what they had previously learned. For those youth returning from an out-of-home placement, they work with them and their families on their transition back to their home school and connect youth with pro-social activities in their community, to make productive use of their free time. Even though staff are available to the parent or guardian for assistance with basic parenting skills after their initial meeting, staff focus on the "at the moment" needs of the youth. Senior staff are assigned shared case management of youth referred to this service. On average 4 to 5 Lehigh County Juvenile Probation youth are actively open with this service at one time.

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

1. SPEP™ Service Type: Mentoring

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

If so, what is the Service Type? Behavioral Management

Was the supplemental service provided? No Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 30

Total Points Received: 25 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: 0

Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours: 0

Total Points Received: 0 **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.

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

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

Total Points Received: 23 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 68 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: 72% 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 In-Home Service received a 68 for the Basic Score and a 72% Program Optimization Percentage. It was classified as a Group 4 service; Mentoring Service Type. There is a qualifying supplemental service of Behavior Management found in the research, which was not used to enhance this service. The Quality of Service Delivery was found to be at a High Level. For Amount of Service, 7% of the youth received the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 0% of the youth received the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The Risk Levels of Youth admitted to the service were: 13% low risk, 40% moderate risk, 40% high risk, and 7% very high risk. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by addressing the following recommendations:

1. Regarding Primary & Supplemental Service Types:
 - a. Incorporate a supplemental service of Behavioral Contracting with clear goals, desired behaviors, and rewards for positive behavior reinforcement.
2. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:
 - a. Written Protocol:
 - i. Create a written manual describing the service in detail (process, topic, lesson or session) for reference during service delivery.
 - ii. Include an age range of youth appropriate for this service.
 - iii. Establish a protocol for routine review of the manual.
 - iv. Establish a matrix or other documentation on how the In-Home Service addresses particular criminogenic needs.
3. Regarding Amount of Service:
 - a. Duration
 - i. Collaborate with the referral agency to increase duration to 26 weeks of service.
 - b. Dosage
 - i. Explore ways to increase the number and/or length of contacts and to meet the 78 hours of targeted dosage.