

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: McKean County Juvenile Probation-Victim Awareness Program

Cohort Total: 22

SPEP ID: 152-T01

Selected Timeframe: May 1, 2016 - May 1, 2017

Date(s) of Interview(s): Jan. 25, 2017

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Angela Work, McKean Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Shawn Peck & Angela Work

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)*

As part of the Victim Awareness Program, McKean County Juvenile Probation delivers Victim/Community Awareness: An Impact of Crime Curriculum for Juvenile Offenders, Third Edition 2009, as trained by Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJTT&R). The service is delivered no less than four times per year, and more often if needed. Services are provided in the school setting as well as at the probation office. This service is delivered to all juveniles that are involved with Juvenile Probation to include diversion juveniles, excluding sex offenders.

Juveniles are introduced to Balanced & Restorative Justice, the mission of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System, focusing on their responsibilities to victims, communities as well as their selves as offenders. Additionally, juveniles learn about victim empathy through the use of role plays which encourage juveniles to empathize with the experiences of victims. Through group processing, juveniles become aware of the actual harm done to the victim in their specific case. Lastly, juveniles have the opportunity to apologize, in writing, for their behavior. The apology letter may be forwarded to the victims by the Juvenile Probation Department when appropriate. Four hours of community service is awarded to each juvenile who completes this service. Material is presented in a psycho-educational seminar format, with male and female juveniles. Handouts are provided as necessary for effective group facilitation. Pre and post-tests are administered to each.

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 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: 10 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: 0

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 0

Total Points Earned: 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.

6/17 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 2 points

1/17 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 0 points

Total Points Earned: 2 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 42 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: 45% 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. Regarding Quality of Service:
 - a. Protocol:
 - i. Adapt updates to the manual/curriculum as they are developed.
 - b. Staff Supervision:
 - i. Develop a scheduled process to monitor the delivery of the service
 - ii. Ensure the supervisor provides written feedback for those who deliver this service
 - iii. Include information specific to the delivery of this service in performance appraisals
 - c. Organizational Response to Drift:
 - i. Develop a policy that outlines how to prevent drift from occurring while delivering this service
 - ii. Ensure that the organizational response to drift includes specific action steps an “if-then” approach, for the agency to take to avoid drift
2. Regarding Amount of Service:
 - a. Implement updated manual/curriculum to provide longer service participation, allowing for alignment with research supported amounts.