

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

SPEP™ ID: 284-T01

Agency Name: The Academy
Program Name: Montgomery County Community Based Services
Service Name: Community Based Services
Cohort Total: 295
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: All delinquent youth who began this service on/after April 2, 2018 and ended this service on/before September 30, 2019
Referral County(s): Montgomery
Date(s) of Interview(s): July 25, 2019
Lead County: Montgomery
Probation Representative(s): Angel Cobbold
EPIS Representative: Kevin Perluke

Description of Service:

Community Based Services (CBS): All youth referred to The Academy Community Based Services receive this service. The service allows students to remain in their home and community while addressing their educational, social, behavior, and employment needs. All youth are assigned a Community Specialist, who works with the youth for the duration of the service. The Community Specialist uses the YLS, Juvenile Probation recommendations and completed assessments within 72 hours of court referral to determine youth treatment needs as they relate to home, community and school needs. The Community Specialist will develop a treatment plan for the youth, and provides daily face-to-face contact, supervision, and 24/7 emergency intervention availability, as youth achieve their goals through various activities, interventions and treatment methods. This includes services such as, court appearances, case supervision, transportation, referrals and attendance to drug and alcohol and/or mental health treatment, education support, attendance at IOP meetings, probation contacts, employment education, resume writing, curfew checks, family meetings, individual counseling and Career Link Services. The Community Specialist will contact the youth's Juvenile Probation Officer three times per week, along with, meet with the family weekly, or as necessary, to discuss progress, changes, or problems with the youth. Youth are referred to this service through probation, for both community based treatment, pre-placement or aftercare from residential placement.

-Academy's Aftercare Program: provides reintegration services to youth who have completed a residential placement, including the implementation of a transitional plan and daily face-to-face contact supervision. In addition to case management services, youth receive assistance in school re-entry, employment search, as well as, individual counseling and family meetings. Staff is available to the child and their families on a 24-hour basis for crisis intervention.

-Community-Based Treatment, Prevention/Pre-placement: services are available for those youth identified as being "at risk" in the community, as well as those in pre-adjudicatory or pre-dispositional status, waiting for further court involvement. Regular case management services described above will be utilized.

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

1. SPEP™ Service Type: Individual 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: 35

Total Points Received: 10 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: 8

Total Points Received: 10 **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.

205 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 5 points

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

Total Points Received: 5 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 45 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: 60% 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. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:

a. Written Protocol:

i. Build upon existing processes to better match service delivery components to the youth's criminogenic needs.

1. Develop a policy to identify how the YLS is utilized from the point of referral to identify the youth's treatment needs.

2. Develop a policy to describe how additional intake documents are utilized to develop The Academy Case Plan.

ii. Implement minimum, predetermined timeframes to review and update written protocol and document the date of last revision on manuals.

b. Staff Training:

i. Update written policy to specify the educational background, training, and/or certification required of staff to deliver this service.

ii. Add a training policy and guide to the operational manual.

c. Staff Supervision:

i. Create predetermined timeframes at which staff are provided written feedback and/or performance appraisals from their supervisors.

d. Organizational Response to Drift:

i. Develop a policy and procedure to identify departure from the fidelity and quality of service delivery.

ii. Ensure documentation is developed and utilized to verify implementation of policies and procedures.

iii. Develop an if/then approach to specific corrective action steps to address departure from the fidelity and quality of service.

iv. Develop a procedure to collect data on the fidelity and quality of service delivery.

v. Develop a process to evaluate and use to adapt or improve the service delivery.

2. Regarding Amount of Service:

a. Increase collaboration with Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Department to better match the research supported recommendations for this type of service.

3. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:

a. Increase collaboration with Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Department to consider each youth's responsivity factors during treatment.

b. Explore options in differentiation in pre-dispositional youth and post-dispositional youth.