

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Community Commitment Incorporated-Family Therapy

Cohort Total: 18

SPEP ID: 39

Selected Timeframe: 1/8/2014

Date(s) of Interview(s): 5/6/2014

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

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 Commitment Incorporated (CCI) operates in Bucks, Northampton and Lehigh Counties. The program offered to juveniles is called "Youthwork." This report focuses on services provided by "Family Therapist" in Bucks County. The Director reported that CCI was started in a different era and that era continued to influence CCI's operations. The era that he was referring to was the "turbulent 60's" and history suggests that an antiestablishment tone existed. A CCI pamphlet and "Youthwork in Action" manual described this era as follows: The turbulent 60's drew to a close the worst internal upheaval in the USA in a century. A plethora of small grassroots agencies sprang up and they began to practice "Youthwork" to deal with the "massive social upheavals." The Manual and the Clinical Staff Meeting document identified "Youthwork" to have three principles and they were as follows: 1. "Start where the client is at" This means that the youth worker begins with an open mind and rids self of adult expectations and assumptions. 2. "Every person and situation is unique, different and ever changing." "Teenagers blow with the wind and change like the weather" 3. "Engage and empower the peer group" "Actively attempt to infiltrate the teen peer culture itself in order to turn it from an absolute negative to an absolute positive." This means that CCI does not ignore, try to control or adult-manage youth. Another concept that was presented and repeated during the onsite visit/meeting was referred to as "Think outside the box." This means that once the problem is identified. An intervention plan is formulated and the response may not be traditional and it is subject to constant scrutiny. Within this philosophical framework, CCI provided family counseling to juveniles who were referred by the Bucks County Juvenile Probation Department.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Family 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: 20

Total Points Earned: 20 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: 6

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 0

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.

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

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

Total Points Earned: 5 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 41 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: 48% 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. Collaborating with the probation department and investigating ways to meet dosage targets for the Family Counseling service type by:
 - Striving to ensure each client reaches a minimum of 20 weeks of service -Striving to ensure each client reaches a minimum of 30 hours of service
2. Collaborating with the probation department and investigating ways of:
 - Targeting high risk youth and eliminating low risk youth referred to the program on a case by case basis.
 - Ensuring YLS data is included in the referral packet from the probation department.
3. Strengthening the “Youthwork” in Action Manual by:
 - Being specific when describing the services to be provided as well as the specific audience (ie. age range, level of risk). -Utilizing the manual as a training tool and documenting these training sessions.
 - Reviewing and updating the “Youthwork” in Action Manual and documenting the date the manual is reviewed and updated.
 - Documenting the use of the Youthwork in Action Manual during service delivery
 - Developing responses to service type and delivery drift that is more specific to the described service and training. -Requiring that the “Youthwork” in Action Manual be read by family therapist and used as a reference for service delivery and documenting it. - Establishing a manual specific for family therapist.
4. Enhancing the training opportunities for the staff by:
 - Creating formal training opportunities for family therapist.
 - Educating Family therapist on the YLS and how they can be utilized in service delivery.
 - Documenting and tracking continuing education credits. -Utilizing clinical staff meetings for training purposes and documenting training topics and hours.
5. Enhance the Data Collection Process by: Tracking YLS data the Probation office provides. 6. Collaborating between Director and family therapist to structure supervision.