

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

*Service Score Results:* Baseline

**Name of Program and Service:** Community Service Foundation Day Treatment Group Counseling

Cohort Total: 12

SPEP ID: 41

Selected Timeframe: 9/24/2013

Date(s) of Interview(s): 9/24/2013

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

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 Service Foundation (CSF) has been in operation since 1977 and the organization operates a variety of programs throughout Bucks County and other surrounding counties. The organization consists of two separate entities and they are as follows: 1. Community Service Foundation and this is the counseling component of the operation and, 2. Buxmont Academy and this is the alternative education component of the organization. The Day Treatment Program is the identified program for this report. The Day Treatment Program operates in five locations and they are as follows: Bethlehem, Feasterville, Pottstown, Sellersville and Woodlyn. Juvenile probationers under the supervision of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas – Juvenile Division attend the Feasterville and Sellersville locations. The Day Treatment Program operates in a school setting (Buxmont Academy). It receives referrals from school districts, Children and Youth Social Services Agency, and the Juvenile Probation Department. Referrals are juveniles who are in grades 7 through 12. It is a program that operates within a school schedule. Juveniles participate in academic classes in the morning and Group Dynamics (counseling) in the afternoon. Certified teachers instruct the academic classes and trained counselors facilitate group dynamics (counseling).

**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? n/a

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: 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: 2

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 6

Total Points Earned: 8 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.

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

0 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

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**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 68 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:** 72% 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)

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## 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. Striving to ensure each student reaches a minimum of 24 weeks of service by collaborating with the probation department and investigating ways to meet targets for amount of service (duration and contact hours) for Group Counseling service type.
2. Tracking the group sessions that are not included in the regular schedule to increase opportunity to meet target for amount of service (contact hours) for Group Counseling service type.
3. Ensuring YLS data is included in the referral packet from the probation department.
4. Tracking YLS data the Probation office provides.
5. Targeting high risk youth and eliminating low risk youth referred to the program.
6. Educating service delivery staff and supervisors on the YLS, perhaps this could be included as a training opportunity.
7. Strengthening the Playbook by being more specific when describing the services to be provided as well as the specific audience (ie. age range, level of risk).