

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Diakon Youth Services-Diakon Weekend Alternative Program

Cohort Total: 22

SPEP ID: 49

Selected Timeframe: Jan. 1, 2013-Dec. 31, 2013

Date(s) of Interview(s): Feb. 7, 2014

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Nicole Mattern, Dauphin Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Shawn Peck & Nicole Mattern

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)*

Diakon Youth Services, formerly known as TresslerCare, provides a range of programs for at-risk youth from three primary locations; the Diakon Wilderness Center in Boiling Springs, PA, as well as sites in Lancaster, PA and Media, PA. Primarily serving individuals referred by county juvenile probation departments as well as children and youth services, Diakon Youth Services offers services designed to help several youth populations; such as dependent youth attain permanency, safety, and well-being. Services are also provided to help delinquent youth understand their need for accountability, community protection and the development of competencies for responsible and successful living. These concepts are embodied in the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice. Diakon Youth Services' goal is for every student to be a successful graduate and to become a productive, connected and law abiding member of their community and society.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Challenge Program

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

If so, what is the Service type? Group Counseling

Was the supplemental service provided? Yes 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: 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: 8

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 8

Total Points Earned: 16 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.

18/21 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 10 points

1/21 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

Basic SPEP™ Score: 66 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: 78% 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:

The Diakon Weekend Alternative Program scored a 78% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 3 service; Challenge Program with a qualifying supplemental service of Group Counseling. The quality of the service is delivered at a high level. The risk levels of youth admitted to the program were 10% low risk, 86% as moderate risk, and 4% as high risk. The amount of service provided to the clients was 86% of the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 82% of the recommended target contact hours for this service type. Diakon Weekend Alternative Program can continue to maintain its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Development of policy to identify drift from delivery service that encompasses a documented systematic application of the policy and a plan of action to handle such drift.
2. Development of a service specific training for staff and supervisors, even those that may be seasoned, that is documented and used as a foundation for counselors prior to delivering the service.
3. Examine the identified target population of the program for ability to handle more high risk youth.