

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Abraxas - Leadership Development Program - BARJ

Cohort Total: 131

SPEP ID: 77-T1

Selected Timeframe: Apr. 1, 2013 – Sep. 1, 2014

Date(s) of Interview(s): Jul. 30, 2014, Aug. 14, 2014, Dec. 19, 2014

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Tracie Davies, Lehigh Co. & Lisa Freese, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Lisa Freese

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)*

All youth in the Abraxas Leadership Development Program attend a group counseling session each week that is facilitated by a trained staff member for one hour. The curriculum consists of 26 sessions, derived from Victim/Community Awareness: Establishing a Restorative Justice Community, April 1999. Since the group is delivered in an open format group, youth may enter and exit the group at any time within the 26 weeks, depending on their discharge date. In the event that a youth repeats the cycle, they will be looked to by staff as a group mentor and will assume leadership responsibilities such as distributing materials and will contribute to create a positive peer culture. During the group sessions, residents are encouraged to relate the concepts to life experiences within the program and within their communities. Staff facilitate clinically challenging dialogue that promotes pro-social thinking and dispels glamorization of the criminal lifestyle. Youth are encouraged to integrate group discussions with BARJ projects in their clinical handbook as well as any clinical assignments associated with the BARJ goal that is built into each youth's Individual Service Plan. Discussion themes consist of negative faces of power and the ripple effect which includes primary and secondary victims. Session include the three domains of BARJ: Competency Development, Accountability and Community protection.

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: 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: 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.

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

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

Total Points Earned: 15 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 65 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: 69% 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. Consider developing a pre test to administer soon after a youth enters the program, during the group counseling session. A post test could then be given during one of the final group counseling sessions just prior to discharge. These tests could assist in measuring the impact the group has on each resident.
2. Youth admitted to LDP should be in the service for no less than 24 weeks.
3. Residents should receive no less than 40 hours of the BARJ group over the approximate 6 month time frame.
4. Staff may want to consider discussion with placing agencies regarding duration. This will likely result in county specific protocols for duration, assuming some counties will choose to adhere to the SPEP target of 24 weeks, where others will not.
5. LDP administrators should ensure that the Youth Level of Service results are available upon admission for every delinquent youth. Youth with high or moderate risk levels should be targeted.