

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: VisionQuest-Parenting with Love and Limits-Family Counseling

Cohort Total: 11

SPEP ID: 20

Selected Timeframe: Mar. 2013-Apr. 2014

Date(s) of Interview(s): May 4, 2014

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Doug Braden, Allegheny Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Shawn Peck & Doug Braden

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)*

isionQuest County Day/Evening Program is a structured, community-based program for adolescent males and females with a target age range of 13-18. The program is designed for youth as an alternative to residential placement or for aftercare when a youth is released from residential placement. Youth will participate in the program between 3-5 months, but the time frame can be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL) is a program designed to reduce the length of stay for youth who are committed to residential care. It is also designed to prevent residential placement and reduce the risk of relapse. The program consists of three components; a 6 week parent and teen curriculum that guides parents and youth to improve communication and develop clear guidelines for the youth to reside with their parents. In addition to the parent and teen breakout groups, weekly in home “family coaching” takes place and is facilitated by a certified PLL clinician (through three phases of therapy lasting up to 14 sessions). Case management services are rendered with the attempt in creating natural supports for the referred client and their immediate family to ensure sustainability of the family’s progress. The PLL clinician will work with the family in order to apply the skills learned from the groups and coaching to develop a family contract. The youth will receive independent sessions in order to prepare them for the contract. These sessions can occur while the youth is in placement or in the home.

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: 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: 2

Total Points Earned: 4 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.

11/11 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points

2/11 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 3 points

Total Points Earned: 15 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 59 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: 70% 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 VisionQuest Allegheny County Day/Evening Program service of Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL) scored a 70% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 3 service; Family Counseling with no qualifying supplemental service. The quality of the service was found to be at a High level. The risk levels of youth admitted to the program were 0% as Low Risk, 82% as Moderate Risk and 19% as High Risk. The amount of service provided to the clients was 28% of the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 37% of the recommended target contact hours for this service type.

The VisionQuest Day/Evening Program's service of Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL) could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Improved communication with Allegheny County Juvenile Court on the research supported amount of service that should be provided for this service type.