

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

*Service Score Results:* Baseline

**Name of Program and Service:** Life'sWork of Western Pennsylvania-Project Choice-Job Related Training

Cohort Total: 40

SPEP ID: 21

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

Date(s) of Interview(s): May 8, 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)*

Life'sWork/Project Choice is a community-based program that serves male and female juvenile offenders ages 14-21 referred by the Juvenile Court of Allegheny County. In order for a youth to receive services from Project Choice they must be residents of Allegheny County. Project Choice supports the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) and provides a holistic approach to ensure that youth have a successful transition into the workforce by focusing on their social, educational and vocational development. Services provided to youth are; Work Experience, Group discussion, Job Readiness Training, and Individual Counseling. Youth also complete community service, enhancing their competency development to better prepare them for employment. They also partner with the community to help complete special projects that help citizens who have been a victim of a crime.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Job Related Training-Job Training

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

If so, what is the Service type? Remedial Academic Program

Was the supplemental service provided? No      Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 10

Total Points Earned: 5      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: 2

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 0

Total Points Earned: 2 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.

39/40 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points

7/40 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:** 32 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:** 43% 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:

Life'sWork/Project Choice scored a 43% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 1 service; Job-related training/job training with no qualifying supplemental service. The quality of the service was found to be delivered at a Low level. The risk levels of youth participating in this program are: 3% as Low Risk; 98% as Moderate Risk or above; and 18% as High Risk. The amount of service provided to the clients was at 3% of the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 28% of the recommended target contact hours for this service type.

Life'sWork/Project Choice could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Further development of written protocol of describing the service.
2. Improving communication with Allegheny County Juvenile Court on the research supported amount of service that should be provided for this service type.
3. Developing a staff training of service to be delivered.
4. Develop documentation to monitor the service.
5. Develop a procedure in response to drift of service delivery.