

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

*Service Score Results:* Baseline

**Name of Program and Service:** Children's Home of Reading - Family Program

Cohort Total: 17

SPEP ID: 70-T1

Selected Timeframe: Jul. 1, 2012 – Dec. 31, 2013

Date(s) of Interview(s): Feb. 28, 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)*

The Traditional In Home Program is operated by Children's Home of Reading (CHOR) as a community-based service for youth in Lehigh and Northampton County who are experiencing significant issues at school, home and/or their community. Children's Home of Reading operates under a philosophy of trauma informed care through the Sanctuary Model. Staff includes a Program Director, 2 Family Interventionists and 6 Community Interventionists; part-time staff is also available if needed. There are 4 different levels of service and the amount of contact per week varies. The In-Home Service (IS) is the least intensive and includes 3 contacts per week by a Community Interventionist, it is client focused and there is no family counseling component. This program is designed for youth stepping down from a more intensive community-based service or as a re-entry component to supervision following an out of home placement. The service is for male and female youth, ages 12-20. The Family Program (FP) consists of 2 individual contacts per week. This service is for families who are in need of counseling or intervention to improve family relationships and encourage pro-social behavior among all family members. According to the program description provided by CHOR, the Family Interventionist fulfills a variety of roles beyond a typical counselor: case manager, liaison, advocate and change agent. The Family Interventionist assesses the family through observation, trauma assessment and a communication parenting survey. These assessments help the Family Interventionist gain insight into the family and identify problems expressing emotions, or if they are able to express emotions in an appropriate manner. Following the initial family assessment, the Family Interventionist and referring agency determine the level and type of intervention necessary. Parent and youth groups are available where appropriate as well.

Each Family Interventionist works in conjunction with the Community Interventionist. They collaborate together in order to stabilize the family. The Family Interventionist assists the parent in developing rules and consequences for their home and how to enforce them. They have the family establish their own goals and assist them in working toward them. The Family Interventionist is trained and certified in the Sanctuary Model of trauma informed care. Ancillary community support services are utilized as needed.

**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: 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.

13 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 7 points

2 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 0 points

Total Points Earned: 7 Total Points Possible: 25

---

**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 49 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:** 58% 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. The inclusion of written descriptions of the service and target population of youth to receive the service in the policy/procedure manual. The review of the service description and type of youth served with staff delivering the service and referral sources would further enhance the capacity for recidivism reduction.
2. The inclusion of written policies for departure or drift from intended service delivery, or clearly written expectations for staff delivering the service with process for corrective action if necessary.
3. Consideration to extend the service to be no less than 20 weeks in length. Another option to consider is excluding youth who score low in family circumstances and parenting on the YLS, from receiving this service; providing solely the In Home Service to these youth. Twelve (71%) of the 17 youth in the cohort received 15 hours (50%) or less of the 30 targeted hours of service for family counseling. Alternatively, if duration cannot be increased, another option could be to increase the number of face-to-face contact hours during the time period the youth and family is receiving the service (e.g. lengthening the existing weekly session and/or meeting more than once/week).