

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Youth Forestry Camp #3-Vocational Services

Cohort Total: 18

SPEP ID: 34

Selected Timeframe: August 2012- June 2014

Date(s) of Interview(s): 3/7/14 , 6/9/2014 & 7/15/2014

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Lehigh County, Tracie Davies, Lisa Freese & Heather Perry

Person Preparing Report: Tracie Davies, Lisa Freese & Heather Perry

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 focus of this report is the vocational/job training services that are provided at YFC#3 to both A and B Dorms. According to the YFC#3 manual, educational and vocational services are run directly through the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11. Vocational programming is designed to meet the standards of the Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT). PACTT assists in providing vocational services within the educational program. The goal is to provide the youth with vocational education and training that will assist him in obtaining and sustaining long term employment. All residents are given the Career Cruising assessment, which is an internet-based career exploration and planning tool designed to assist the youth to explore career options/interests. This interest inventory is based on 139 "likes" that will match careers to their ability based on their on-line profile. On-site vocational instruction/certification includes welding, building maintenance, small engine repair, and woodworking. At Huntingdon County Career and Technical Center (HCCTC) 72 hour course in culinary, landscaping and auto repair are offered. These certification programs are held 3 days a week for 3 hours each. YFC #3 also transports residents accepted into the program to Loysville Youth Development Center for an on-site forklift certification program. Also available to residents is an on-site work program at YFC #3 in dietary (which consists of serving and cleaning in the on grounds cafeteria), grounds maintenance (which is general cleaning of the facility), and landscaping (which is outside maintenance of the facility grounds). These paid work programs also include training and course-work. Off-site job training/job placement is offered at Hoss's Restaurant and Lake Raystown Resort. Both sites offer an 8 week on-site training program.

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? Yes Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 10

Total Points Earned: 10 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: 6

Total Points Earned: 8 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 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points

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

Total Points Earned: 25 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 63 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: 84% 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. Require additional booster/refresher or ongoing training be required on a specified timeframe (example-review training videos annually and document the review).
2. Improving upon the existing data collection process
 - account for number of weeks youth participate in the service; number of hours the youth receive the service; and document YLS scores.
 - explore ways to obtain additional outcome data (peer reviews or collecting feedback from youth and families where appropriate).
3. Collaborating with the probation department and investigating ways to meet targets by:
 - Striving to ensure each student reaches a minimum of 25 weeks of service.
 - Striving to ensure each student reaches a minimum of 400 contact hours.
4. Strengthening the Youth Forestry Camp #3 Policies and Procedures Manual by:
 - Being more specific when describing the service and audience (ie. age range, level of risk).
 - Documenting the date the manual is reviewed and updated.
5. Strengthen courses and track competencies that meet demands of the workforce