

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Time: 124-T01

Agency Name: Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP)
Program Name: Lebanon Youth Advocate Programs, Day Treatment Program
Service Name: Behavior Management
Cohort Total: 27
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: September 1, 2015 thru September 30, 2016
Referral County(s): Lebanon
Date(s) of Interview(s): Service Classification: July 29, 2016 and Quality Interview: September 22, 2016
Lead County: Dauphin and Lebanon
Probation Representative(s): Nicole Mattern and Sue Christner
EPIS Representative: Shawn Peck

Description of Service:

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., (YAP) provides various types of services for male and female youth across the United States. YAP's Mission is to provide safe, proven effective and economical alternatives to institutional placement. Types of treatment include Juvenile Justice programs, Child Welfare programs, developmental disability programs and Behavioral Health programs. YAP's community-based programs emphasize the treatment needs of the individual youth, family and community. The YAP philosophy to prepare youth and their families for engagement after treatment ends is emphasized throughout treatment to create independent communication with the youth and their family and the development of community linkages the youth and family can access independently. Mentoring is a theme of YAP's treatment milieu and paid mentors are selected from the same communities as the youth.

All youth in this program participate in the behavioral management system. This behavioral management system includes a Level System consisting of six Levels. Levels are used to determine activities within the program. There is a daily point system used to measure each youth's daily behavior while in the program. Youth can receive up to 6 points a day for their participation in group, community service and meeting program expectations. Youth are expected to perform better as they progress through the program and longitudinal behavior is evaluated. Informal discussions of the points/level can take place at any time throughout the day. Behavioral Contracts are issued when there is inappropriate behavior.

Youth on Level 2 are eligible to participate in the incentive program that where youth can earn YAP bucks. Youth on Level 1 earn points, which are more associated with behavior while the YAP bucks are more associated with pro-social skills. There is process that correlates the youth's points in the program with their performance in the program. Each week, youth are eligible to convert YAP bucks into dollars in order to pay court fees. The service provider and juvenile probation officers have frequent conversations in order to draw a connection with between the youth's behavior in the community and the program. School performance, behavior at home and drug testing are all discussed to ensure that the youth is integrating treatment concepts in their daily behavior. Juvenile probation officers will check on the youth at home and in the program as needed.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Behavioral Management

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

If so, what is the Service Type? Mentoring

Was the supplemental service provided? Yes Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 25

Total Points Received: 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, staff supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Received: 20 Total Points Possible: 20

3. Amount of Service: Score was derived by calculating the total number of weeks and hours received by each youth in 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 contact hours. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction.

Points received for Duration or Number of Weeks: 4

Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours: 6

Total Points Received: 10 **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.

27/27 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points

4/27 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 3 points

Total Points Received: 15 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 75 total points received out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP™ therapeutic service. (e.g. 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: 79 This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (e.g. 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 juvenile probation department.

Behavior Management scored a 75 for the Basic Score and a 79% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 4 service; Behavioral Contracting; contingency management with a qualifying supplemental service of Group Counseling. The quality of the service was found to be at a High level. The amount of service provided to the clients was 45% of the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 71% of the recommended target contact hours for this service type. The risk levels of youth admitted to the program were 0% as low risk, 85% as moderate risk and 15% as high risk. Behavior Management could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality of Service:

a. Written Protocol:

- i. Incorporate the Behavior Management System into the specialized training that includes a booster component

b. Staff Training:

- i. Booster trainings are administered periodically but there is not established schedule

c. Staff Supervision:

- i. During the interview it was identified that no form existed in order to document the implementation of the behavioral management system
- ii. Ensure that Observation Forms include strengths and opportunities for improvement

d. Organizational Response to Drift:

- i. Develop an agency policy that outlines how to identify and prevent drift from occurring while delivering this service
- ii. Ensure that the organizational response to drift includes specific action steps for the agency to take to avoid drift, an "if-then" approach

2. Regarding Service Amount:

a. Improve upon the existing data collection process to measure the contact hours for this service

b. Improve communication with Juvenile Probation to better match research recommendations for targeted amount of service.