

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: JusticeWorks YouthCare, Inc., Violation Initiative Program (VIP®)

Cohort Total: 45

SPEP ID: 210-T01

Selected Timeframe: Jul. 1, 2016 - Jun. 30, 2016

Date(s) of Interview(s): July 27, 2017

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Jeff Gregro, Bill Keim & Ryan Alena, Berks 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 Violation Initiative Program (VIP®), operated by JusticeWorks YouthCare, Inc. is a community-based program for youth under the supervision of the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office who are moderate to high risk to reoffend and/or at risk of being removed from their homes due to violations of probation supervision. The intent of the program is to provide counseling, support, supervision and to also assist with supplemental referrals to other community agencies in order to reduce the likelihood of long-term out-of-home placement.

It also functions as a re-entry component to supervision following an out-of-home placement to ensure a youth's smooth, seamless entry back into their home community. The Family Resource Specialist (FRS) provides supervision at varying levels of service. Standard VIP® is 2 hours per week of face to face youth contact, Intensive VIP® is 4 hours per week, and Full VIP® is a minimum of 6 hours over a period of 7 days per week. The probation office staff decides what level of service should be provided based upon the juvenile's risk score and current level of supervision compliance. The FRS is responsible for monitoring each youth at home, school, work when applicable, and "leisure time" activities. Based upon the goals outlined by the probation office, a treatment plan is developed with the youth and family within 48 hours of first contact. VIP® services are typically provided for 4 - 6 months.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Mentoring

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

If so, what is the Service type? Behavioral Contracting/Management

Was the supplemental service provided? No Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 30

Total Points Earned: 25 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.

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

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

Total Points Earned: 20 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 67 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: 71% 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:

JusticeWorks Youthcare Inc. VIP® scored a 67 for the Basic Score and a 71% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 4 service- Mentoring. The program could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. The addition of a Supplemental Service- Behavioral Management.
2. Exploring ways to increase the duration (26 weeks) and dosage (78 hours) youth receive the Violation Initiative Program to achieve the targeted amounts.
3. Working in collaboration with the Juvenile Probation Office to increase the percentage of High Risk youth receiving the service and eliminate Low Risk youth from the cohort.
4. Rewriting the service description to reclassify the service as Mentoring and working with the Juvenile Probation Office to educate probation staff on the target population, duration, and dosage of the service.

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment 1

SPEP™ ID and Time: 0210-T02

Agency Name: JusticeWorks Family of Services, Inc.
Program Name: JusticeWorks Family of Services, Inc. – Berks Office
Service Name: Violation Initiative Program (VIP®)
Cohort Total: 83 for Amount of Service, 82 for Level of Risk
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: March 20, 2019 - February 20, 2021
Referral County(s): Berks
Date(s) of Interview(s): April 8, 2021 and May 12, 2021
Lead County: Berks
Probation Representative(s): Jeff Gregro, Deputy Chief
EPIS Representative: Lisa Freese

Description of Service:

The Berks County JusticeWorks Family of Services office opened its door in 2008 providing services to juvenile justice-involved families through services that meet varying social and community needs. Services started with their Violation Initiative Program (VIP) that focused on identifying and navigating community resources relevant to youth and family needs, as well as skill building to allow for new adaptive behaviors to help build viable and long-term skills. Other services provided include: Voices, a program of self-discovery and empowerment for girls is a program for self-discovery and empowerment for girls who have experienced substance abuse or trauma related to abuse. The program advocates a strength-based approach that helps girls to identify and apply their power and voices as individuals and as a group. Casework Counseling is similar to VIP in that casework and skill building services are provided to those families who may need minimal or brief assistance in meeting their probation goals. The Reintegration Service is family-focused and begins at court when a youth is referred to placement. While the youth is in placement, the Reintegration Specialist will assist the family with case management, transportation, video conferencing parenting and in-person visits with the youth and regular contact with the treatment team. Parenting covers topics such as teen behavior, constructive communication, and consequences and rewards. PACTT affiliate/OVR IL group: The Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training (PACTT) Alliance Employability/Soft Skills Manual (ESSM) provides guidance and uniformity to the work-ready training activities offered to delinquent youth. The identified competencies represent an important foundation for a youth's employability skills training. Through our PACTT affiliation, JusticeWorks also has the ability to offer an independent living skills group to those youth who meet OVR/BJJS criteria (funded through OVR).

The focus of this report is the Violation Initiative Program (VIP®). VIP®, is a community-based program for youth under the supervision of the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office, who are moderate to high risk to reoffend and/or at risk of being removed from their homes due to violations of probation supervision. The intent of the program is to provide counseling, support, supervision and to also assist with supplemental referrals to other community agencies in order to reduce the likelihood of long-term out-of-home placement. It also functions as a re-entry component to supervision following an out-of-home placement to ensure a youth's smooth, seamless entry back into their home community. The Family Resource Specialist (FRS) provides supervision at varying levels of service. The FRS is responsible for monitoring each youth at home, school, work when applicable, and "leisure time" activities. Based upon the goals outlined by the probation office, a treatment plan is developed with the youth and family within 48 hours of first contact. VIP® services are typically provided for 4 - 6 months.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Mentoring

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

If so, what is the Service Type? Behavioral Management

Was the supplemental service provided? Yes **Total Points Possible for this Service Type:** 30

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: 4

Total Points Received: 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.

<u>76</u>	youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of youth	<u>10</u>	points
<u>14</u>	in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>3</u>	points

Total Points Received: 13 **Total Points Possible:** 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 71 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: 75% 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.

VIP® received a 71 for the Basic Score and a 75% Program Optimization Percentage. These Basic Scores represent an increase of 3 point (s) from the initial SPEP™ Assessment. These POP Scores represent an increase of 4 percentage point(s) from the initial SPEP™ Assessment.

The service was classified as a Group 4 service; Mentoring Service Type. There is a qualifying supplemental service of Behavior Management found in the research, which was used to enhance this service. The Quality of Service Delivery was found to be at a High Level. For Amount of Service, 51% of the youth received the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 40% of the youth received the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The Risk Levels of Youth admitted to the service were: 7% low risk, 76% moderate risk, 17% high risk, and 0% very high risk. The addition of a behavior contract contributed to a 5 point increase as a qualifying supplemental service. Amount of service reflected a 6point increase as well. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by addressing the following recommendations:

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:
 - a. Written Protocol:
 - i. Consider a routine review of the written protocol for VIP®. Document the date of the review on the first page of the protocol.
 - b. Staff Training:
 - i. Create a booster training specific to the delivery of VIP® to occur at predetermined timeframes.
 - c. Organizational Response to Drift:
 - i. Establish a routine management review of the exit surveys to look for themes as to where the service could be adapted or improved.
2. Regarding Amount of Service:
 - a. Collaborate with Berks County Juvenile Probation to continue to improve both duration and dosage.
3. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:
 - a. Collaborate with Berks County Juvenile Probation to limit the number of low risk youth in the service.