

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

SPEP™ ID: 267-T01

Agency Name: JusticeWorks Family of Services, Inc.  
Program Name: Berks Reintegration  
Service Name: Family Reintegration Service  
Cohort Total: 41  
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: June 26, 2017 - May 31, 2019  
Referral County(s): Berks  
Date(s) of Interview(s): June 10, 2019  
Lead County: Berks  
Probation Representative(s): Jeffrey Gregro  
EPIS Representative: Lisa Freese

## Description of Service:

The Berks County Family Reintegration Program, operated by JusticeWorks Family of Services, is a service for youth committed to residential placement who score either Moderate or High in the Family Circumstances domain of the YLS. The service consists of family-related case management delivered to parents/caregivers primarily in their homes, while incorporating video and in-person participation with the youth while they are in residential care. The service is also delivered during home passes and for 3 months following the youth's release from placement. The intent of the service is to not only assist with parents visiting and maintaining meaningful connections with their child while they are in placement, but more importantly teaching them the parenting skills necessary to better prepare them for their child's return home.

The service has been using the Nurturing Parenting Program for Parents and Adolescents curriculum. This curriculum includes lessons on assessing parenting strengths, understanding brain development, communication, problem solving and understanding and handling anger and stress, to name a few of the topics. Youth are identified and referred to JusticeWorks by the juvenile probation office when they meet the eligibility criteria. A JusticeWorks Family Resource Specialist (FRS) will appear at the Court Hearing to meet the family and explain the service. The service begins at this point, while the youth is in placement, and continues for 3 months following release. While the service is being delivered, the JW FRS also assists with discharge needs such as linking the youth to any identified services, employment and school re-enrollment prior to release. The intention is for the JusticeWorks Family Resource Specialist to meet with the parent/caregiver for a minimum of 2 hours per week during the service. JusticeWorks is currently implementing the Pennsylvania Academic and Career Technical Training (PACTT) Alliance curriculum, to improve academic, career and technical training for youth upon their return home.

## 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 Received: 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, 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:** 8

**Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours:** 8

**Total Points Received:** 16 **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.

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

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

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

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**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 81 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:** 96% 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.)

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### **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.

The Reintegration Service scored an 81 for the Basic Score and a 96% Program Optimization Percentage. It was classified as a Family Counseling service type. There are no qualifying supplemental services. The quality of service was found to be at a High Level. For Amount of Service, 93% of the youth received the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 96% of the youth received the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The risk levels of youth admitted to the program were: 0% Low Risk, 37% Moderate Risk, and 63% High Risk. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by addressing the following recommendations:

#### 1. Quality of Service Delivery

- a. Document training attendance and regularly scheduled booster training attendance for staff delivering the service.
- b. Provide staff with a copy of the field supervision log each time staff is observed.

#### 2. Amount of Service

- a. Explore ways to increase the duration (20 weeks) and dosage (30 hours) youth receive the Reintegration Service to achieve the targeted amounts based on research.

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

**Service Score Results:** Reassessment 1 SPEP™ ID and Contact Time: 0267-T02

Agency/Program Name: JusticeWorks YouthCare, Inc.

Service Name: Family Reintegration

Cohort Total: 31

Cohort Time Frame: Youth that began the service on/after January 1, 2021 and ended on/before August 31, 2023

Referral County(s): Berks

Feedback Report Delivery: January 18, 2024

County/Probation Officer(s) Involved: Christine Anderton

EPIS SIS(s): Lisa Fetzer and Lisa Freese

The Berks County JusticeWorks Family of Services office opened its door in 2008 providing services to juvenile justice-involved families that meet varying social and community needs. Services started with their Violation Initiative Program (VIP) that focuses 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 who have experienced substance abuse issues or trauma related to abuse; Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®); 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 Berks County Family Reintegration Program, operated by JusticeWorks Family of Services, is a service for youth committed to residential placement who score either Moderate or High in the Family Circumstances domain of the YLS. The service consists of family-related case management delivered to parents/caregivers primarily in their homes, while incorporating video and in-person participation with the youth while they are in residential care. The service is also delivered during home passes and for 3 months following the youth's release from placement. The intent of the service is to assist with parent visitation and maintaining meaningful connections with their child while they are in placement. It also teaches parents the skills necessary to better prepare them for their child's return home. The service has been using the Nurturing Parenting Program for Parents and Adolescents curriculum. This curriculum includes lessons on assessing parenting strengths, understanding brain development, communication, problem solving and understanding and handling anger and stress, to name a few of the topics. Youth are identified and referred to JusticeWorks by the juvenile probation office when they meet the eligibility criteria. A JusticeWorks Family Resource Specialist (FRS) will appear at the Court Hearing to meet the family and explain the service. The service begins at this point, while the youth is in placement, and continues for 3 months following release. While the service is being delivered, the JW FRS also assists with discharge needs such as linking the youth to any identified services, employment and school re-enrollment prior to release. The intention is for the JusticeWorks Family Resource Specialist to meet with the parent/caregiver for a minimum of 2 hours per week during the service. JusticeWorks is currently implementing the Pennsylvania Academic and Career Technical Training (PACTT) Alliance curriculum, to improve academic, career and technical training for youth upon their return home.

## 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 Received: 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, 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 dosage. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction. Targeted duration and dosage for this service is 20 weeks, 30 hours.

<u>21</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>31</u>	received the targeted Duration or Number of Weeks for a total	<u>6</u>	points
<u>23</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>31</u>	of received the targeted Dosage or Number of Hours for a total of	<u>6</u>	points

Total Points Received: 12 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. The Risk Levels of Youth admitted to the service were: 1 low risk, 19 moderate risk, 11 , high risk, and 0 very high risk.

<u>30</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>31</u>	are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>12</u>	points
<u>11</u>	youth in the cohort of	<u>31</u>	are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of	<u>13</u>	points

Total Points Received: 25 Total Points Possible: 25

**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 77 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:** 91% 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. The service could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction by addressing the following recommendations:

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:
  - a. Written Protocol:
    - i. Develop a formal process to review and update the manual at predetermined timeframes and date when this occurs.
2. Regarding Amount of Service:
  - a. Collaborate with Berks County Juvenile Probation to ensure youth are receiving research recommendations for the targeted amount of service of 20 weeks and 30 hours.
3. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:
  - a. Continue collaboration with Berks County Juvenile Probation to ensure the most appropriate referrals are being received.