

# The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

SPEP™ ID and Time: 0324-T01

Agency Name: Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center (LCYIC)

Program Name: P.U.L.S.E. Evening Treatment Center (ETC)

Service Name: The Council for Boys and Young Men

Cohort Total: 15 for Amount of Service/14 for Risk Level

Timeframe of Selected Cohort: January 1, 2019 - March 13, 2020

Referral County(s): Lancaster

Date(s) of Interview(s): Service classification: March 23, 2021 and Quality of Service Delivery: July 26, 2021

Lead County: Lancaster

Probation Representative(s): Michael McCartin, Supervisor, Lancaster County Juvenile Probation

EPIS Representative: Dawn Karoscik

## Description of Service:

Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center - The Youth Intervention Center opened its doors on March 9, 2002 and is located on the Sunnyside Peninsula at 235 Circle Avenue in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Center provides detention, shelter care services, and alternative treatment programs for males and females from the ages of 10 to 18. The Detention program has a 48 bed capacity, the Shelter program has a 36 bed capacity, and P.U.L.S.E. Weekend Program has a 12 bed capacity.

The P.U.L.S.E. - Providing Uplifting Learning Skills to Excel - Evening Treatment Center (ETC) was started in August 2016. The ETC serves adolescents who are involved with the Office of Juvenile Probation or the Children and Youth Agency. The program is offered to males and females ages 13-18. Participants can be referred to the program in two ways: court-ordered by Juvenile Probation after disposition or recommended by a Children and Youth Caseworker. Participants are transported to the program after school and then transported home at 8:30pm as long as they live within a 12-mile radius of the facility. During the summer months, the participants are transported from their homes to the program. The length of the program is determined by the participant's treatment needs. At a minimum a youth, will be in the program 7 weeks but typical length in the program is 10-12 weeks. The participant's goals, program length, and groups will be determined based on recommendations from the Juvenile Probation Officer or Children and Youth Caseworker, consultation with the parents/guardians, and results of various assessments. The ETC participants participate in evidence-based programs, as well as psycho-educational groups. While at the program, participants receive an evening meal and snack. They are given time to complete their homework, as well as recreation time.

The Council for Boys and Young Men is a strength-based group approach to promote boys' and young men's safe and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years, ages 12-18. The council meets a core development need in boys for strong, positive relationships. In this structured environment, boys and young men gain the vital opportunity to address masculine definitions and behaviors and build their capacities to find their innate value and create good lives- individually and collectively, developer. Referral to this group is based on referral recommendations, youth struggling social with peers, create support system. This is a closed group with a minimum of 4-6 participants. The group is facilitated by 2 staff and runs once a week for 10 weeks.

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

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Group 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:** 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:** 10 **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:** 0  
**Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours:** 0

**Total Points Received:** 0 **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>12</u> | <b>youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of youth</b> | <u>10</u> | <b>points</b> |
| <u>1</u>  | <b>in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of</b>                     | <u>0</u>  | <b>points</b> |

**Total Points Received:** 10 **Total Points Possible:** 25

**Basic SPEP™ Score:** 50 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:** 53% 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.

### 1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:

#### a. Staff Training:

- i. Within the written protocol clearly describe the facilitator training process.
- ii. Construct a plan for provision of booster trainings and/or supplemental trainings that facilitators are required to receive in order to continue with facilitation of Boys Council

#### b. Staff Supervision:

- i. While supervisors do monitor staff conducting the groups, consider implementing a more formal, time-based process so that staff can expect observations while understanding that there will continue to be intermittent observations
- ii. With the aforementioned process consider implementing a more formalized process of observation documentation. This will enable documentation to be accessed for the feedback to staff
- iii. In regard to feedback service delivery, consider implementing a more formalized, time-based approach that will create opportunities for staff to receive feedback on a more consistent basis regardless of performance
- iv. In regard to staff evaluations, consider creating an addendum to the County evaluation that will specifically concentrate on the facilitation of groups including Boys Council. At minimum, consider including specifics surrounding the facilitation of groups within the standard County evaluation format

#### c. Organizational Response to Drift:

- i. Develop a written policy that outlines how to prevent drift from occurring while delivering this service, possibly utilizing tracking sheets
- ii. Within the written response to drift policy, develop a process to document the utilization of the drift policy
- iii. Ensure that the organizational response to drift policy includes specific action steps for the agency to take to avoid drift, including an “if-then” approach or specific corrective action steps to address departure from the fidelity and quality of service deliver
- iv. Consider ways to collect data on the fidelity and quality of service delivery
- v. Develop a process to evaluate the data collected to adapt and improve service delivery

### 2. Regarding Amount of Service:

- a. Consider ways to increase the dosage and duration of this service to better match research supported targets
- b. Maintain communication with JPO from referring county (Lancaster) to continue matching research recommendations for the targeted amount of service and appropriate length of stay for each youth

### 3. Regarding Risk Level of Youth Served:

- a. Maintain collaboration with the Lancaster County Office of Juvenile Probation to identify the appropriate risk level for each youth who is completing the service
- b. Maintain collaboration with the Lancaster County Office of Juvenile Probation to identify appropriate service allocation based on specific YLS domains and responsivity factors